

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 08533 071542Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 NEA-10 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO USINFO WASHDC

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UNCLAS KINSHASA 8533

STATE FOR AF/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE MIDDLE EAST

1. KINSHASA DAILY SALONGO AUGUST 7 CARRIES A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY IN

WHICH ASSISTANT EDITOR KITAMBALA KULUBITCH DESCRIBES AS "EMBARRASSING" THE PRESENT POSITION OF EACH PARTY TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. MR. KULUBITCH NOTES THAT AFTER PLAYING DOWN AS "UNIMPORTANT POLITICALLY AND MILITARY" THE IMPACT OF THE EXPULSION OF THE ISRAEL MILITARY DELEGATION FROM EGYPT, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN NOW SAYS THAT IF DIRECT TALKS CANNOT GO ON BETWEEN EGYPT AND HIS COUNTRY, THE TALKS COULD BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE US. ASSISTANT EDITOR KULUBITCH SAYS THAT THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT--

JUST HOURS BEFORE EGYPT EXPELLED THE ISRAELIS---THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TOWARD RESUMING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS"BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD DECIDED TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF THE WITHDRAWL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES" WAS EQUALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE US AFTER THE EXPULSION. COMMENTARY CONSIDERS THE EGYPTIAN MOVE, DESPITE THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT, AS BEING EQUALLY EMBARRASSING BECAUSE PRESIDENT SADAT HAS ALWAYS SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

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2. MR. KULUBITCH CLOSES EDITORIAL WITH AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE INDICATING THAT "SINCE THE U.S. IS CONTINUING TO EVALUATE EACH SIDE'S POSITION IN ORDER TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO KEY QUESTIONS, THERE IS REASON TO HOPE THAT THE DEADLOCK WILL END AND THAT THE TWO PARTIES WILL RESUME THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS." ITEM

DUMAS

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